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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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The Standard.

"Nil falsi audeam, nil veri non audeam dicere."
CICERO.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1864.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The Brazilian fleet was to have left yesterday for the Uruguay, with sealed orders. Some say to take Salto, others, blockade Fray Bentos. We suppose that something definite will be done in a few days, unless Servando Gomez defeats Flores, which is not at all improbable.

The Brazilian steamer Marques De Olinda left yesterday for Cuyaba: she took a number of passengers up the river, but if the Paraguayans have declared war, we fear this is the last we shall see of the poor Marquis De Olinda, but let us say with Dr. Rawson "never mind."

There appears to have been a regular blow up in the War office. All sorts of rumours are afloat: one of the head clerks has taken his congé, and if report be true, others are about to follow his example.

The last storm in Rio Janeiro appears to have been turned to some advantage by a speculative Englishman, who when the storm was at its full height, and hail stones falling as big as teapots, started off and bought up all the glass in Rio. The day after the storm half the windows in the city were smashed, and the only holder of glass in the place was the eccentric but wide-awake son of Albion. He sold all his glass which amounted to some five thousand pounds sterling, at a profit of 35 per cent.

Not one of our colleagues has as yet said a word about the San Juan gold, although all the world is talking about it, and hundreds are this moment wending their way to San Juan. We have received private advices from Rosario which leaves no doubt whatever of the fact. Some of our countrymen are about to leave to-morrow in the steamer. We wish them the most sanguine success, and hope to see them returning to Buenos Ayres with trunks full of nuggets.

The rails are laid now out to the Lomas de Zamorra, and the locomotive running out and in daily. We hear that the contractors have at last received all the materials for the Riachuelo bridge which is fast progressing.

Two diligences came to grief the day before yesterday on the Calle Buen Orden, making for Barracas with about twenty passengers, most of whom had to get out by the window, and the other bound for the Recoleta. We are surprised that such accidents are not more frequent, for the paving in some of the streets is sufficient to smash the springs of even *Ned Dyer's* break.

We hear that a new English grocery store will shortly be opened in Rosario. Owing to the numerous foreign estancieros in the vicinity of Rosario, we have no doubt that it will be well supported.

A very important change, we hear, is about to be made in our river and inland traffic. The Northern Railway Company has made arrangements with the owners of the line of Argentine diligences in Rosario to take all the passengers per rail from the Plaza 25 De Mayo to the Tigre, where they will embark in one of the steamers, thence to Rosario, where the coaches will be in waiting to start for the interior.

The Spanish frigates will not leave Montevideo before the 6th inst., on which day they will sail for the Pacific.

One of our colleagues states that a ladies' gambling house has recently been fitted up in one of our most fashionable streets, in the most gorgeous style. We heard about this some time ago, and hope the police will shut it up,

for it never will do to allow such an infamous place to become fashionable. Ladies, they say, are fond of rouge, but rouge et noir is a very different matter.

The renowned Pinzon has written to some friends in Montevideo, stating that all things go on well at the Chin-chas, and that he is well supplied with everything. He seems to take the Peruvian question very easy, and laughs at all the talk about making him surrender.

Next month the Rio operatic company is expected to arrive in Buenos Ayres. We hear great things about the tenor.

In Montevideo some legerdemain gentlemen have arrived from Havana. They can do anything, and we suppose the government will make them an offer to produce Flores and Baron Tamandare, and make them walk on their heads around the Solis Theatre.

ANGORA GOATS.

As the first auction sale of these animals is about to take place, we subjoin a few particulars respecting them, which we have translated for the information of our camp friends; who, doubtless, will be anxious to secure the breed on this, the only opportunity likely to occur for some time:—

The Angora goats constitute a branch of industry, which has very flattering prospects in the Oriental or Argentine Republics, which are as well adapted for their rearing as any other country in the world, according to practical experiments. These goats are shorn twice a year, the fleece of each animal weighing nearly 2 lbs. The wool is worth in England up to 6 lbs. per lb.

The Angora goat is not subject to the scab or other sicknesses.

From the experiments made by Mr. Lecoq at Montevideo, this goat acclimates perfectly.

Mr. Lecoq sent samples of the wool to Paris, and it has been acknowledged as much superior to that of the goats reared in France.

The Angora goat crossed four times with the ordinary goat which can be done in three years, obtains the same wool as the original breed, according to experiments made in Australia.

By the Corrientes, arrived from Montevideo, on the 30th October, 132 Angora goats were received here, and they can now be seen at the caballeriza alemana, No. 64 Calle Balcarce. Regarding these goats, we extract the full particulars from the 'South African Advertiser' of the 5th September:—

"The Pyrmont, which will leave Table Bay to-morrow for Montevideo, takes down 400 Angora goats, purchased by Mr. Barker.

"These animals are from the best flocks of the districts of Overto, from the establishments of Dr. White, Mr. Van Ardt, Myburg, and others in the district of Swellendam. After an examination we made of them on Sunday last, we can guarantee that they have been selected with great care and intelligence.

"There are in the lot from 20 to 30 rams, and amongst those two purchased from Mr. Van Ardt, that appeared in the last agricultural exhibition of the western provinces, and one from Dr. White, quite equal to the original animals imported from Asia Minor. They are all in excellent condition, and we hope they will arrive well at their destination.

"The purchase of these animals for exportation to Montevideo will give, we hope, an impulse to our producers, and animate them to direct their more special attention to the rearing of this valuable race."

"A great deal has been done already in this sense with the first quantity imported into the Cape Colony a few years ago by the energy of Messrs. Mosenthal, Brothers. The fact that without much difficulty they have been able to pick 400 good animals from the flocks of Swellendam alone, proves that in that district they have deserved a marked attention, while in the Graaf Ruset Mr. Benjamin has been able to collect 17 bales of Angora wool, weighing from 6,000 to 7,000 lbs.

For the best quality of this article, the high price of 2s. 6d. per lb. has been realized in the London market, equal to 15½ patacons per arroba of 25 lbs., a price which must leave magnificent results to the rearers."

These valuable animals will be offered

by public auction on the 10th inst., by Mr. Mariano Billinghurst, at his house in Calle Potosi, 74, in small lots, if not previously disposed of, as we understand they are now in treaty. We are informed small lots have been sold in Montevideo at from \$80 s. to \$110 s. according to quality.

SAN JUAN NUGGETS.

A gentleman connected with the Mensagerias Nacionales informs us that he has had in his hands large lumps of massive gold from the new gold diggings at San Juan, some nuggets over two inches in diameter. The discoveries have caused the greatest excitement, as the metal is highly valuable, being almost virgin ore. The mines are very extensive, but not comprised in Major Rickard's territory, and being all embargoed by the authorities owing to so many claims of ownership, there may be a temporary difficulty in working them.

Our informant is no less surprised than ourselves at the studious silence of the provincial and Buenos Ayrean papers regarding these extraordinary discoveries. It can be understood that the Government of San Juan unwilling to be flooded with adventurers should order the local paper to say nothing about the gold. But so many private letters have been received giving visions of Oriental magnificence in the sierras of Tontal that the city journals are only endeavoring to hang a cloak over the sun, in ignoring the fact.

We had long anticipated that gold must exist in some part of the immense territory called Republica Argentina, and now the treasures are brought to light in an abundance far surpassing California and Australia in their palmy days. Before many weeks we may expect to see the gold-fever at its height, and the roads to San Juan covered with people in quest of this "philosopher's stone."

As soon as the news spreads through Europe, vessels will not be able to accommodate the gold-pilgrims, hurrying to the shrine of Mammoth. Did they not go in thousands to California and Australia, both double as far as the River Plate? Chile will send a host of miners across the Cordillera, and the diggings in Australia will be abandoned for the richer veins of San Juan. We are on the eve of a remarkable revolution, but one which is sure to herald a wonderful progress in this country, and we shall then have the pleasure to know that it was the *Standard* which first gave forth the cry "Eureka, Eureka."

IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES IN PATAGONIA.

THE EXPLORER MR. COX.

It is passing strange that public attention has not been directed to this important subject, so intimately affecting a part of what is regarded as Argentine territory. Some time ago the 'Nacion Argentina' published some particulars, but the 'Journal Illustré' (Sept. 1864) of Paris gives, with Mr. Cox's portrait and map, a history of the life and travels of this remarkable man, who is destined to rank with Burke, Livingston, Speke and the other undaunted explorers of the 19th century. Englishmen have reason to be proud, that the immortal pioneers of civilization in this age are mostly from the British Isles, and the subject of these lines was also an *English citizen*, though of foreign birth.

Mr. Cox was born at Valparaiso (judging from his portrait about 30 years ago), being the son of a celebrated English physician there resident. During his early youth much was spoken about the feasibility of a water communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and he conceived the dream of procuring for Chile some highway more commodious and less dangerous than Magellan's Straits or Cape Horn. The republic of Chile has always maintained the character of the most progressive in this continent, and the Government gladly accepted the services of the young enthusiast, who set out on his first hazardous journey in 1859. Making Port Montt (a German colony on the Pacific in S. Lat. 41.30), his starting point and base of operations, in company with a few determined companions, he passed the neck of the Cordillera at Mount Osorno and reached the western shore of Lake

Nahuel-huapi. But he had not calculated all the difficulties of the enterprise and was obliged to desist and return to Valparaiso. The Government was pleased with his report, and the explorer only waited a favorable chance to carry out his design.

On the 16th of December 1862, a complete expedition fully equipped by Government and consisting of 18 persons under his command, again started from Port Montt and reaching Lake Nahuel-huapi on new year's day 1863 undertook to cross the lake in a boat left there by Mr. Cox on his former journey. A steep hill on the eastern shore now barred their progress, but they resolutely cut their way through a virgin forest, climbed the perilous glaciers and Mr. Cox was the first who arrived at the summit and saw to his infinite joy the broad stream of the Rio Negro winding its course eastward till lost in the brown-colored Pampas of Patagonia.

Having launched his boat in the Rio Negro, he determined to push downwards as far as the Argentine settlement of Carmen or Patagones at the mouth, on the Atlantic. Fearing a shortness of provisions he ordered the half of his party to return to Port Montt, and with the rest commenced to descend the river, which he found navigable, with about 10 or 12 feet of water. After some slight mishaps, in coming foul of hidden obstacles he had the misfortune to capsize the boat, and his men narrowly escaped drowning by clinging to the keel: he owed his own safety to a life-belt, the water being here 14 feet deep. The loss of all his charts and instruments was even less than that of the provisions on which depended the lives of all the party. Luckily he fell in with a tribe of Pehuelches Indians, who at first determined to kill all the intruders, but the interpreter explaining that Mr. Cox was very rich, it was at length agreed he should pay a large ransom, leaving four of his men as hostages while he proceeded to Port Montt.

He accordingly returned with the ransom, but instead of accompanying his men back to Chile, remained a voluntary companion of the Pehuelches whose costume he even adopted (as taken in his portrait), with the hope of accompanying them at the usual time of year in their journey to Carmen (as described by our friend *Erin*) to sell skins and ostrich feathers. Some neighboring tribes hearing of the Christian who went hunting guanacos and ostriches with the Pehuelches threatened to make a "malon" with fire and lance if he were permitted to remain in Indian territory, and he saw himself forced to return to Chile, where an account of his explorations has since been published at the cost of Government.

By a fortunate coincidence Mr. Cox was wrecked at the very same rapids mentioned by the Spanish pilot Villarin, who reached this point in a small vessel which ascended Rio Negro from the Atlantic. Hence Mr. Cox considers his expedition realized, and declares the water-course navigable the whole way (excepting about a mile) from one ocean to the other. He speaks highly of M. Lenglier, a Frenchman who joined him in all his perilous adventures. He states that as the Argentines hold the line of the Rio Negro from Patagones to the island of Choele-choel, it would be easy for Chile to occupy the remainder as far as Lake Nahuel-huapi, and by this means a splendid country would be thrown open for immigration, and a navigable highway made available for commerce across the continent.

We cannot too highly appreciate the value of Mr. Cox's discovery, and regret not having brought forward the same till our notice was attracted by the recent publication at Paris. The probable reason why the matter has been treated with such silence in Buenos Ayres is that it involves the old question whether Patagonia belongs to this republic, or to Chile, or to both. Nevertheless at some day, probably not far distant, the navigation of Rio Negro will become a fact, as commerce has discovered the valuable secret and will force a passage spite of politics.

Some future historian may remark the coincidence that the two great highways from the Atlantic to the Pacific (Rio Negro and the Cordoba

railway) are associated with the names of the son of an English physician of Valparaiso, and the son of a Yankee physician (Dr. Rawson) of San Juan.

NEWS FROM UP THE RIVERS.

Passing Las Piedras the lands have been all recently settled on by Buenos Ayrean sheep farmers, who purchased the lands a couple of years ago at the low rate of four silver reales per yard. The place is rapidly improving, and on the confines of Rosario chacras are daily increasing. Rosario is probably the only city in the Argentine Republic which, in the true sense of the word, is going ahead. An Englishman who had lived there for many years, and who about two months since left it for Montevideo, visited Rosario the other day. He was thunderstricken at the wonderful change which even in that short time had taken place: new shops, hotels, &c., the streets crowded with strange faces, the harbour crowded with shipping, the plazas thronged with bullock-carts from the interior. Unfortunately the split between political parties has also increased; but one of the most influential residents had taken the matter in hand, called a meeting of the politicians at his house and tried to arrange matters. We are happy to say D. Tomas Penaloza has been signally successful, and the political rancor which was increasing to such a pitch has died out. The Maua Bank is doing an immense business, and is patronized by every one. Mr. Wheelwright is busily engaged in pushing the works of the Central Railroad ahead. He is residing at the gardens which were formerly a fashionable hotel. Urquiza's old saladero has been worked to great advantage during the past season: over 15,000 animals slaughtered during the 'fiesta.' The flour-mills are constantly working, and on the whole Rosario is going ahead rapidly. North of Rosario, before arriving at the Carcaraña, all the lands are bought up and several Irishmen, Americans and Englishmen have magnificent estancias. About this quarter no land is to be had, except at the most exorbitant rates.

The Argentine Central Railway station, at the Carcaraña, will be about eight leagues from Rosario, and here there is plenty of land for sale at four thousand dollars per league. A brother to the English Consul in Montevideo has recently purchased two square leagues, about four leagues west of the Carcaraña station, and has sent up sheep from Buenos Ayres to stock it: there are three or four leagues adjoining these lands still on sale at the same price. The camps about there are adapted for sheep, having soft grass and abundance of water. Still farther out west, lands are everywhere offered for sale, but we cannot advise our readers to purchase very far out, for the Indians are very troublesome, as there is no scarcity of land within a circuit of say 15 leagues, north-west of Rosario. We counsel our readers for the next few years to keep within these limits.

Leaving the camps of Santa Fé, and following the course of the Paraná, we arrive at the quondam Argentine capital, 'Parana,' which has fallen into ruin and decay. The port can now never boast of more than one or two vessels at most, and save a few lime-burners, who eke out a precarious existence on the chalk cliffs, there are no more signs of life than on the opposite shore—the gloomy Chaco. Paraná is greatly talked about in Buenos Ayres, but it is one of the slowest places in the rivers. The town lies back from the river about a mile, and is approached by a most circuitous road up the steep cliff. Some moon-stricken individual has mooted building a railway, but, save an inclined-plane road, we know of no other way. The town is magnificently situated, and overlooks the surrounding country. Mr. Meyers, the agent of the steamers, and our agent, is the only man in the place who speaks English. Since the introduction of Yebes Sarsfield's celebrated Free Bank Law, the rage for banks has become all the fashion. Some of the people in Paraná are now busy with a scheme for creating a bank: capital, all paper, emission, all paper, deposits, all paper, circulation, paper—a thorough paper bank. The initiator, a Mr. Fraguero

had a meeting of sheepfarmers and others, and explained the objects and dilated on the benefits of the proposed bank. Every one in town has agreed to patronize the institution, provided the Directors discount freely and always take renewals in payment. The people up the Paraná are all sworn enemies of the Brazilians, and it is rumored that some volunteer regiments are about to be recruited to join the Paraguayans.

The saladero of Macias is now shut, and it is rumored will henceforward be worked by Mariano Cabal. Business very dull, cattle very abundant and cheap, sheep scarce, and the great talk of the day the new cotton plantations which some Americans have started; the plants of last year are coming round, and our American friends boast that they will have a million of cotton plants in bloom next February. This is, at least, good news. Parana cotton is very superior and highly valued at home.

VIVA DON PEDRO II., EMPEROR OF BRAZIL.

The Brazilian Government we hear has abandoned the idea of making reprisals in the river and, now only proposes to play second-fiddle to Flores, by helping him to take the Uruguay towns, then cross the Rio Negro and take Montevideo. The reason for this change in the Brazilian policy is the decided tone of the foreign Ministers. Our colleague, the 'Nacion,' argues the greatest success and immediate peace as the result of this step, but we for our part consider that an alliance between Brazil and Flores can only be of short duration.

Blind to every Brazilian antecedent which the history of the unfortunate Uruguay affords, stupified by an animosity against the partido Blanco, our colleague fails to discern, that unless Flores is a paid hireling of Brazil, there is not or cannot exist the semblance of mutuality of interest between the proposed allies. Our quasi official colleague may say that Brazil only wants peace to be restored and security for the lives and properties of Brazilians, but if such is the case why did not Brazil side with President Berro long ago (whom President Mitre styled the best ruler the country ever had) to put down the revolution and subjugate Flores? Because it was the interest of Brazil to weaken rather than strengthen the Oriental Government: because a country plunged in civil war can offer but faint resistance to foreign invasion: because Brazil wants natural boundaries. And now when civil war has done its worst, when the country is ruined and desolated by the sword of the rebel, this friendly neighbor (who, if we are to believe our colleague, would not take the Banda Oriental if offered to him) comes forward to save the country by forming an alliance with the very man who has caused all this ruin. We are not surprised at Flores raising this revolution, neither are we astonished at Brazil aiding to protract the fight, but we cannot conceive how Argentine writers should be so blind to their own interest as to publish such extraordinary articles as every day we read.

We, who regard the annexation of the Banda Oriental as a blessing and a merited retribution, do not attempt to conceal from all parties interested the real sequel of the present drama. Brazil joins Flores now, simply because he is the weakest: if she joined the Government, it would less consult her interests, for then possibly the rebel would be driven out without delay, but by siding with Flores the contention is prolonged, the easier afterwards to conquer. Now, since the 'Nacion' takes such extraordinary care to persuade its readers that Brazilian alliance with Flores is a blessing, we, on our part, plainly foretell what must inevitably succeed. Flores, aided by Brazil, we believe and think must ultimately win. But are the Brazilians going to war for nothing? Will the cost of the war be borne by the bankrupt merchants of Rio Janeiro? Are the soldiers of the Brazilian army fighting without pay; or do Argentines suppose that the squadron at present in the rivers costs nothing to support? When Brazil will have put Flores into Montevideo, then will come the reckoning; and if the loss of a few cows, by Brazilian estancieros, at present affords a

